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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 OES-06 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

FAA-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /060 W
---------- 016907
R 271320Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7288
NSF POLAR WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 6311

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XV, MOPS, AR
SUBJECT: LOSS OF ARGENTINE NAVY PLANE IN ANTARCTIC

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ARGENTINE PRESS HAS REPRTED THAT WRECKAGE OBSERVED ON LIVINGSTON ISLAND HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS THAT OF ARGENTINE NAVY "NEPTUNE" AIRCRAFT. THE PLANE HAD LEFT RIO GRANDE ON SEPT. 15, AND WAS TO CROSS DRAKE PASSGE ON MISSION WHICH OFFICIAL REPORTS SAID WAS FOR RECONNAISSANCE OF ICE CONDITIONS. ENROUTE WEATHER WAS APPARENTLY VERY BAD.

2. AFTER LOSS OF RADIO CONTACT WITH THE AIRCRAFT SOME 3 1/2 HOURS INTO THE FLIGHT, AN EXTENSIVE SAR OPERATION WAS MOUNTED, INVOLVING SHIPS OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY AND THE CHILEAN NAVY AND AIRCRAFT OF YPF, THE TIERRA DEL FUEGO GOVERNMENT, THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE, THE ARGENTIVE NAVY, AND LADE.

3. THE WRECKAGE ON LIVINGSTON ISLAND WAS FIRST OBSERVED BY AN AIR FORCE C-130 ON SEPT. 18. ON SEPT. 23 CRES IN A TWIN OTTER FROM MARAMBIO AND A C-130 WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE WRECKAGE,
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WHICH IS SCATTERED OVER A RADIUS OF 1 KM. ON THE NORTH SIDE OF

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MT. BARNARD, ON LIVINGSTON ISLAND IN THE SOUTH SHETLANDS. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF SURVIVORS FROM AMONG THE TEN NAVY PERSONNEL AND ONE RIO GRANDE TELEVISION OFFICIAL WHO WERE ON BOARD. THE SAR MISSION HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED.

END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN LOU.

4. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE MISSION OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS AS REPORTED. THERE IS SPECUALTION, HOWEVER, THAT THE NAVY HAD ORDERED THIS FLIGHT TO TRY TO ASSIT IN THE EFFORT TO LOCATE THE MISSING BRITISH CLIMBERS ON MT. PEARY AND WOULD HAVE ONLY ANNOUNCED THIS IF IT HAD ACHIEVED THIS OBJECTIVE. WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE APPARENTLY SO BAD THAT THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE WOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE ATTEMPTED A FLIGHT ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY.

5. IF NSF POLAR FEELS IT APPROPRIATE, IT MIGHT WISH TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES VIA EMBASSY TO ADMIRAL EMILION EDUARDO MASSERA, COMMANDING GENERAL, ARGENTINE NAVY.

END LOU.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760364-0319
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: MOPS, XV, AR
To: STATE NSF
Type: TE
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